ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A peak value of readings of a reference plate is calculated by a peak value calculation means. The peak value is stored by a storage means. An average value of the readings of the reference plate is calculated by an average value calculation means. Difference data between the peak value and the average value is calculated by a difference data calculation means. A variable correction coefficient is set by a correction coefficient setting means through use of the difference data and the peak value as shading correction reference data. Readings of an document image is corrected by a correction means through use of the correction coefficient. Thereby, dispersion of document image readings in shading correction is decreased.